GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:620
ANSWERED ON:27.04.2016
US Seeks Reduction in India's Nuclear Weapons
Kothapalli Smt. Geetha

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has noticed the statement of US that India and Pakistan need to make progress in reducing their nuclear arsenal;
(b) if so, the details thereof; and
(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
[GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]

(a) & (b) Yes. At a press conference at the end of the Nuclear Security Summit 2016 (April 1), the US President said "â€¦one of the challenges that we're going to have here is that it is very difficult to see huge reductions in our nuclear arsenal unless the United States and Russia, as the two largest possessors of nuclear weapons, are prepared to lead the way. The other area where I think we'd need to see progress is Pakistan and India, that subcontinent, making sure that as they develop military doctrines, that they are not continually moving in the wrong direction".

(c) India has consistently supported global, non-discriminatory, verifiable nuclear disarmament and the complete elimination of nuclear weapons in a time bound manner. India supports the proposal put forward by NAM for the Conference on Disarmament to commence negotiations on a Comprehensive Nuclear Weapons Convention. States with substantial nuclear arsenals need to assume their own special responsibility for nuclear disarmament.

India has no-first use of nuclear weapons as a fundamental element of its nuclear doctrine. We support negotiations on global no-first use. India has called for a meaningful dialogue among all states possessing nuclear weapons to build trust and confidence and reduce the salience of nuclear weapons in international affairs and security doctrines. Conventionally, India has never initiated military action against any neighbour. In the wider context of the Nuclear Security Summit, the US President's own comments that 'expanding nuclear arsenals in some countries, with more small tactical nuclear weapons which could be at greater risk of theft' suitably summarizes the thrust of the global concern in this regard.